

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 OES-06

TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W

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R 071430Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7582

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSS HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSS LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SW, UR

SUBJECT: USSR SEEKS TO ESTABLISH SHIPPING AGENCY IN SWEDEN

1. SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL SWEDISH FIRMS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SHIPPING COMPANY IN SWEDEN WITH SOVIET MAJORITY OWNERSHIP AND SOVIET MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO JOHN WINGSTRAND, TRANSPORT CHIEF, MFA/TRADE MINISTRY, GOS HAS NOT DECIDED HOW TO HANDLE REQUEST. GOS IS CONCERNED BY INCREASED OPPORTUNITY SUCH A FIRM WOULD PROVIDE FOR USSR (A) TO ACQUIRE CARGO MOVING TO AND FROM SWEDEN AND (B) TO ENGAGE IN ESPIONAGE. AS LONG AS GOS MAINTAINS NONDISCRIMINATORY RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT IN SWEDEN, IT IS AT LOSS TO PROHIBIT USSR FROM PROCEEDING. (SWEDISH JUSTICE MINISTRY HAS BEEN STUDYING WHOLE QUESTION OF

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FOREIGN ESTABLISHMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ITS REVIEW OF

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN MULTINATIONALS IN SWEDEN; IT MAY CONTINUALLY RECOMMEND LEGISLATION LIMITING RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT.)

2. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, TWO SOVIET SHIPPING ENTERPRISES RECENTLY CONTRACTED TO BE REPRESENTED BY SWEDISH COMPANIES. SOVIET LINE BESTA IS REPRESENTED BY SIOEWALL SHIPPING COMPANY WHILE BALTATLANTIC LINE IS REPRESENTED BY JOHNSONLINJEN AGENTUR AB. SOVIET FEEDER VESSELS ARE NOW MOVING CARGOES BETWEEN SWEDISH AND CONTINENTAL PORTS FOR RELOADING ON AND OFF SOVIET VESSELS MOVING BETWEEN CONTINENT AND US EAST COAST. SOVIET LINES WILL BE SAILING OUTSIDE NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCES AND RATES WILL BE LOWER THAN CONFERENCE RATES, ACCORDING TO MARTIN WILKENS, SHIPPING OFFICER IN MFA/TRADE MINISTRY. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS REACHED BY JOHNSON AND SIOEWALL REPRESENT FIRST MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH OF SOVIET SHIPPING INTO DIRECT TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SWEDEN.

3. COMMENT. SOVIET-SWEDISH TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MOSCOW APRIL 7 BY PRIME MINISTER PALME AND CHAIRMAN KOSYGIN MENTIONS "IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS". SOVIET SIDE ORIGINALLY WANTED REFERENCE TO FACILITATING ESTABLISHMENT IN SWEDEN OF MIXED SOVIET-SWEDISH COMPANIES, A SUGGESTION RESISTED BY SWEDEN, ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR BERTIL ARVIDSON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, MFA TRADE MINISTRY, WHO WAS SWEDISH NEGOTIATOR. SWEDEN, ARVIDSON SAID, WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE HOW SOVIET UNION WILL INTERPRET PHRASE FINALLY ACCEPTED. IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE NOT HAD LONG TO WAIT. (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS DETAILING CSCE ASPECTS OF TRADE AGREEMENT.)
SMITH

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